

AMENDMENTS

Please amend claims 1 and 15 as shown below. The amendments to the claims are additionally shown in a “marked-up” version of the amended claims attached hereto as Exhibit A, showing additions to and deletions from the original claims.

1. (Currently amended) A circular die for extrusion of an extrudate, said die comprising:

an outer die having a generally conically shaped opening and in fluid communication with an extruder;

5 an inner cone nested in non-contact with said outer conically shaped die opening; and

a drive shaft connected to said inner cone and located outside of said outer die such that said drive shaft is not in contact with the extrudate, wherein said inner cone rotates axially with said drive shaft.

- 10 15. (Currently amended) An extruder die in communication with an extruder, said extruder die comprising:

an outer component defining a circular exit port through which extrudate is directed;

5 a cone nested in, but not in contact with, said circular exit port; and

a drive shaft attached to said cone, wherein said drive shaft is located outside said outer component such that an extrudate in communication with the outer component is not in communication with said drive shaft.